PRESS RELEASE
The Cleveland Museum of Art
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FREE SYMPOSIUM ON 19TH CENTURY REALIST ART OFFERED BY THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

A free symposium, The European Realist Tradition in the Nineteenth Century, is being offered by The Cleveland Museum of Art in conjunction with the Museum originated exhibition, The Realist Tradition: French Painting and Drawing 1830-1900, on view in Cleveland from November 12, 1980 through January 18, 1981. The three-day symposium, to be held at The Cleveland Museum of Art on Saturday, November 15, Sunday, November 16, and Monday, November 17, 1980, will include lectures and discussions given and led by a dozen scholars from American and European museums and universities.

The purpose of the symposium is to examine various aspects of the realist-naturalist movement as they affected painters and sculptors in France and other countries. Presentations will focus on such topics as the social issues of realism in the nineteenth century, the contributions of major and minor artists and art theorists, the difficulties in defining a realist style, and visual imagery as it reflected contemporary life. The symposium is funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The program begins each day with a coffee hour and last-minute registration, followed by two morning lectures, a lunch break, and two afternoon lectures, concluding with a discussion session. The Museum galleries will be open from 10 until 6 on Saturday, from 1 until 6 on Sunday, and will be closed on Monday. The Realist Tradition exhibition will be open from 9 until 6 on Saturday, and 1 until 6 on Sunday. On Monday the exhibition only will be open from 9 until 5 for symposium visitors only. The symposium, the exhibition, and all activities, with the exception of lunches, are free and open to all.

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The Realist Tradition: French Painting and Drawing 1830-1900 is an exhibition of 250 oil paintings, water colors, and drawings by seventy nineteenth-century French artists. The exhibition examines, within the context of nineteenth century France, the work of these artists and the social themes which they depicted. The way the artists viewed themselves and their times is joined with history, sociology, politics, and literature to recreate the panorama of a France that was the artistic and intellectural center of the Western world. The two subdivisions of the exhibition--Realism, which examines the origins of the movement from 1830 to 1870; and Naturalism, which examines the continuation of the tradition after the Franco-Prussian War, with attention placed on the shift toward naturalism--divide the works into four thematic categories: genre, still life, the portrait, and landscape. The exhibition was organized by Dr. Gabriel P. Weisberg, curator of Art History and Education at The Cleveland Museum of Art, and is supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities; a federal indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities; a grant from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs through L'Association Francaise d'Action Artistique; and a grant from the Scottish Arts Council. The Cleveland showing is assisted by a grant from the Ohio Arts Council. Following the Cleveland showing, the exhibition travels to the Brooklyn Museum of Art, the St. Louis Art Museum, and the Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Scotland.

A hardcover catalog for the exhibition has been prepared by Dr. Weisberg with 400 illustrations (43 in color) and will be available at the Museum Sales Desk for $15. In addition, catalogs for American Realism and the Industrial Age ($6) and The Drawings and Water Colors of Léon Bonvin ($5), two related exhibitions also on view during the symposium, will be available.

Participants may purchase lunch in the Museum cafeteria on Saturday and Monday. Since the cafeteria does not serve meals on Sundays, the Museum will arrange for box lunches for symposium visitors. Box lunches must be ordered and prepaid by November 7, 1980 through the Museum's Department of Art History and Education. The cost is $5.

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Special room rates for symposium visitors will be availabe in two Cleveland hotels. The Clinic Inn (formerly The Park Plaza Hotel) is located about five minutes from the Museum with room rates set at $29 single occupancy and $34 double. To make reservations contact The Clinic Inn, Reservations Department, 2065 East 96th Street, Cleveland, OH 44106, telephone (216) 791-1900. The Hollenden House is located in downtown Cleveland with rates at $32 single occupancy and $42 double. To make reservations contact The Hollenden House, East 6th Street and Superior Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44114, telephone (216) 621-0700. To receive the special rate at either hotel participants should identify themselves as attending The Cleveland Museum of Art Realist Tradition symposium. Prices quoted do not include state and local taxes. Transportation from Cleveland Hopkins International Airport to both hotels may be arranged through the Airport Limousine Service. In addition, a free shuttle service between the hotels and the Museum will be provided for the mornings and afternoons of each day of the symposium.

Registration for the Realist Tradition symposium should be made as far in advance as possible to help the Museum's staff in the planning of this major event. Participants may request registration forms by calling the Museum's Department of Art History and Education at (216) 421-7340, or by writing to Mark Johnson, Symposium Coordinator, at The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, OH 44106.

A complete listing of symposium lecturers and their topics follows:

Saturday, November 15

10:00 am — Horace Lecoq de Boisbaudran and Memory Drawing
Petra T. D. Chu, Art Historian, Seton Hall University

11:00 am — Aspects of German Nineteenth-Century Realism
Françoise Forster-Hahn, Art Historian, University of California at Riverside

2:00 pm — Social Themes in Realism
Theodore Zeldin, Historian, St. Antony's College, Oxford University

3:00 pm — The Petits Maitres as Masters of Realism
Gabriel P. Weisberg, Curator of Art History and Education, The Cleveland Museum of Art

Sunday, November 16

10:30 am — The Laundress in French Art from Philipon to Picasso
Theodore Reff, Art Historian, Columbia University

11:30 am — Pouring New Realist Wine from Old Academic Bottles
Albert Boime, Art Historian, University of California at Los Angeles

2:00 pm — Courbet and Millet
Robert L. Herbert, Art Historian, Yale University

3:00 pm — Later Realism and the Documentary Impulse: Illustrators, Photographers, Painters
Linda Nochlin, Art Historian, Vassar College

Monday, November 17

10:00 am — Toward a Clearer Definition of Naturalism in French Nineteenth-Century Painting
Geneviève Lacambre, Curator, Musée du Louvre

11:00 am — World and Country Aspects of Realism in Switzerland
Hans Lüthy, Director, Swiss Institute for Art Research, Zürich

1:30 pm — Realism in Sculpture: Limits and Limitations
H. W. Janson, Art Historian, New York University

2:30 pm — Degas's L'Absinthe
Ronald Pickvance, Art Historian, University of Glasgow

For additional information on The European Realist Tradition in the Nineteenth Century symposium contact Mark Johnson in the Department of Art History and Education at The Cleveland Museum of Art.

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